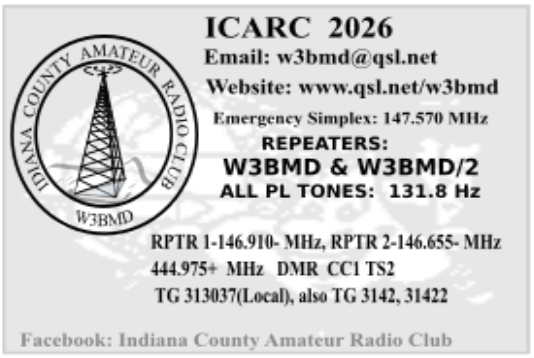


IARC NEWSLETTER

July-Aug, 2026

Much thanks to the ARRL Foundation for its support provided to the ICARC tower and repeater upgrades at its remote site

Officers for 2026:
President – Bill Robinson, KC3ZAF
Vice President - Joe Rougeux, KD3BCW
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK
Secretary - Larry Freeman, N3LT

Board of Directors for 2026
1. Craig Bigler, AB3XA
2. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
3. Ralph Timblin, N3UDI
4. Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG

Local Happenings:

On Sunday July 19, 2026 the four solar panels were installed on the roof of the ICARC shack at Rhine Rd. courtesy of Craig Bigler-AB3XA, Ian Bigler-KC3DTE & Cass Fitzgerald-N3FLO: The panels are visible on the shack in the photo.

On July 22, 24 Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG, David Sorisio, and Larry Freeman-N3LT initiated getting the new vhf repeater system, including four LiFePO4 batteries and six filter cans from Repeater Builders installed and arranged at the Rhine Rd site. Also a bit of cleaning up and planning for routing the solar panels was made along with inventorying equipment to be salvaged. Some of the effort is shown in the photos. Note that Elmer is showing how to fix a repeater with a hammer. Afterwards, one can tell that he's very happy. Also some of the

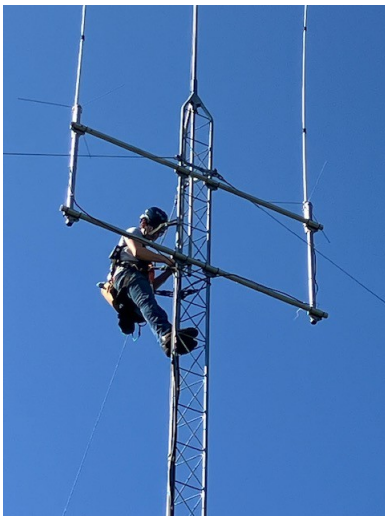
excess equipment in the shack that will be salvaged is shown in the photos that follow. If you have any interest please let us know. **B&K Precision function generator: Model E-310B, USAF RF Analyzer Model TS-510A/U, Leader oscilloscope Model number: LBO 524 shown sitting atop of the USA Analyzer Model TS-510A/U, atop of the USAF analyzer.**

The photo to the left shows the two side by side repeaters, power amplifier (with two fans), a controller and a power block with Anderson Power Poles. There is also a receiver preamp which is not shown. The filter cans are seen on the left next to the rack. The batteries are stored in a large audio enclosure upon which the six filter cans are mounted. The photo to the right shows Elmer and his Grandson, David checking out a possible position for the Solar Panel junction box to be installed later.

Work day on Saturday, July 25

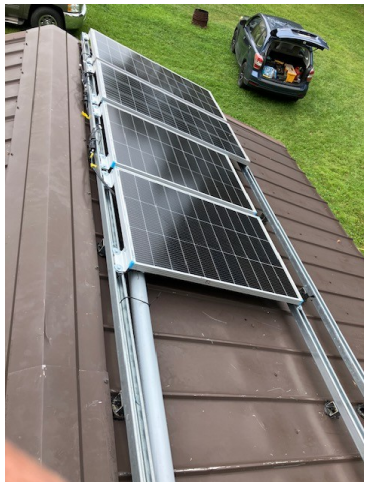
After doing a lot of clean up like removing the myriad of old antennas and poles from the top of the storage shed and relocating them at the edge of the treeline and loading all the guy wire and some other stuff onto the trailer provided by Bill McMillen-N3QM to be recycled, the guys are relaxing in the shade and eating some hot dogs grilled over the campfire along with some condiments, chips and Jalapeno peppers (Thanks Walt). It was a productive day. Those participating: (L->R) Mike Kosalko-N3ARA, Bill McMillen-N3QM, Dave Dzelsky-N3DZ, Walt Ligas-WA3BDR, Deryl Mack-KC3YZW, Ralph Timblin-N3UDI. not shown in photo are: Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG & Larry Freeman-N3LT. Elmer is still in the shack working with the repeater and Larry is taking the photographs. There were a total of nine folks who showed up to do work. Not Bad! It was a good day.

On June 30, 2026 (Friday) the tower climber, Stephen Lowther-KC3TUU arrived and secured the free end of the top pole carrying the static brushes and attached two pulleys on the lower frame member of the antenna support structure separated by a few inches to prevent the rope from easily twisting. It is now possible to attach one end of a wire antenna or two to the tower if desired. Elmer Sorisio-KB3WG and Larry Freeman-N3LT were there to help Stephen or call Emergency Services if needed. See the photos to the left.



Saturday August 1, 2026, Cass-N3FLO and Larry-N3LT started mounting conduit and running cables for the solar panels, now on the roof of the shed. Also measured the power at the receive port of the antenna to see what's there. Turns out the 5 Watt slug for the Bird 43 Watt meter could detect no power at the port when the transmitter and the power amplifier were transmitting. The reason for doing this is that the receive preamplifier died and we need to know if we killed it. It will be checked with a more sensitive spectrum analyzer to see what the actual power level might be at the receive port.

The solar panels were wired to the plus and minus buss bars in the junction box mounted at the apex of the shack on the rear wall. This involved running eight ten gauge cables through about twelve feet of 2 inch diameter pvc conduit and then down into the junction box. The two (+ & -) main twelve volt power cables into the shack must still be run. It was a long day requiring much roof and ladder time. Cass performed all of the ladder work while Larry did the roof work which included a bit of touch-up painting a few rusty spots. Take a look at the photos to the right and below in order to get a sense of what it took. The final work involves mounting half inch pvc conduit under the eves of the building and running the main cables through it into the cable cover on the tower side of the building and then into the shack. Weather permitting that may be completed in the not too distant future.



Another Item of Note:

Ian Bigler-KC3DTE, the Webmaster for ICARC's web-page and a student at Pennsylvania State University has been working diligently with others to get the ham radio club at Penn State up and running and on the air. To that end the club has been acquiring equipment and now has a new beam antenna in the air. Hopefully, we can have a contact or two with Ian when he gets back to campus in the Fall. The photo to the right was provided by Craig Bigler-AB3XA showing the new toy:

Announcements:
The ICARC meetings are, generally, scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month. The remaining meetings for the year are as follows: September 1, October 6, November 3, December 1, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the large dinning room located in the back part of the Eat n' Park restaurant in the Indiana, Pa, unless otherwise announced.

The ICARC Public Service and Information Net happens on each Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.910/146.310 MHz. (ICARC is an ARRL affliated club). There will often be a second net starting immediately following the primary net with the W3BMD/2 repeater, on 146.655/.055 MHz located at ICARC's Remote site. (Tones for both are 131.8 Hz)

Links for Tower Take-down

Courtesy of Deryl Mack , KC3YZW

https://youtu.be/c1LG7SRu9b0

https://youtu.be/risblzrA_hY

https://youtu.be/zCV7vwqTMjk

Attention Technician and General licensees (and prospective hams), have you thought about upgrading?
Do you have trouble making it to an in-person ham exam? Now you don't have that excuse. Groups holding online ham exams have greatly expanded. Some groups are having exams daily. Reportedly it is
an easy process if you have a laptop, desktop or tablet with a camera and microphone. Shown below are
websites where you can look into testing online.

https://wm7x.net/ One of the most popular. They have videos explaining how it's done.
https://kl7aa.org/vex/remote-testing/
https://hamstrung/sessions/remote Lists remote and in person test sessions.

On the National Scene:
Excerpt From the ARRL education@arrl.org

New Technician Class Question Pool begins July 1st

Teaching Technician Class element 2, whether in a classroom or over the internet, is a challenge. While the questions and answers are basic compared to the General- and Extra-Class question pools, our biggest job is being entertainers, keeping our students excited about getting on the air and enjoying our hobby and service.
This means performing lots of live demos, making fun ham contacts over the air in class, and encouraging at-home study before each class session with our pre-test study questions. It is important to have "stage presence", using a friendly voice, slightly louder than just talking, to command the class's attention.
Your first few sessions for Technician element 2 need to build your students' confidence that ham radio will be fun, exciting, and rewarding. Then, once we have 'em hooked, we work the 400+ questions! If we start our first class session with "E = I × R" without selling our students on ham radio, we might overwhelm them, and attendance could shrink.

This past year, our Question Pool Committee worked hard to modify over 150 questions and answers for the Technician Class exam pool, making them more readable for those non-technical folks entering our amateur radio service and hobby.

The test is not being dumbed down, but rather being made more concise and clear. For example, in the phrase, "identify in the diagram a SPST switch" SPST will be spelled out as "Single Pole, Single Throw switch".
The Question Pool Committee also used ExamTools data to study which Technician test questions were missed the most and revised a few answer choices to make them easier to comprehend.

Lucky for us, they kept the same correct answer for each question. So, for those of us who use PowerPoint slides in the classroom, our slides will still be usable after the July 1st test-rotation date. In fact, about *half* of the test pool for the 2026 – 2030 Technician-Class element 2 remains totally unchanged — this is more good news for many of us who bring in fellow instructors to help lead some of the demonstrations at specific page numbers.

More good news for instructors — 25 new questions take the place of some of the older, more complicated technology questions.

On top of that, for those who use the ARRL Gordon West books, ARRL Acquisitions Editor Mark Derks, KC1RVQ, along with Book Editor Makenzie Ozycz and Assistant Production Supervisor Terese Newman, KC1YPP, were able to maintain the same page numbers in the new book. We know many of you have your own handouts, with page numbers guiding students to see the explanations our books offer — those page references remain the same!

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ICARC Summary Meeting Minutes 06/02/2026

Agenda ICARC Meeting June 2, 2026

1. Pledge of Allegiance: done

2. Roll Call: 15 in Attendance: N3DZ, K3FSE, N3VFK, N3LT, KA2YOS, WB3DUD, K3PJ, N3ARA, N3QM, K3VAR, KC3ZAF, KD3BCW, KB3WG, W3CDH, N3UDI

3. Presentation on J-Pole Antenna – Joe Rougeux - KD3BCW
Joe, brought his home made band J-Pole antenna and described construction and testing thereof. The quality was incredibly good, with copper as the main construction material. the swr on 2m was 1:1 and he indicated it is designed as a 2m-70cm antenna. It was a very interesting program.

4. Treasurer's Report: Chris Edwards- Presented a report on the state of finances for ICARC. All is in order.

5. Trustees Report : Elmer Sorisio- The repeaters are working well

6. Secretary's Report: Larry Freeman- No minutes for the May ICARC meeting were read. They will be sent to members to read and edit as necessary.

7. Old Business:

Report on the Foundation Grant: All equipment for the grant has been received. The final report for the grant has been uploaded to Google Drive and the access code was sent to the ARRL Foundation Larry reported that he spoke to the lady at the ARRL Foundation handling our grant at Hamvention and she indicated that she would be in contact the following week. Unfortunately, that has not yet happened.

There was considerable discussion of Field Day including, Computers, N1MM, antennas, Power Strips, lights and food at Pavilion 4. Operating 4A was discussed as well as the importance of logging properly with a suggestion of there being a refresher run through on N1MM with no ultimate decision. Larry agreed to send the N1MM instruction sheet to everyone so that they could go over it before operating. It was also pointed out that a copy of said instruction sheet will be on the desktop of each ICARC computer for easy reference. It was also suggested that each operator have a logging partner to make things easier for the operator.

8. New Business

Bill announced a joint breakfast at Crouse's restaurant in Schelocta between the ICARC and Fort Armstrong Wireless Association to be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

Bill McMillen -N3QM mentioned that his friend and former ICARC member Joe George is into tracking and recovering RadioSonde weather balloon transmitters. He thought it might be a something that club members might be interested in. It was suggested that Bill ask Joe if he would possibly give a short program on the topic at our next meeting.

For the Good of the Order, Dave Steiner mentioned that the the large "Elephant-Ear" plants at the remote site have been sprayed with an herbicide.

9. Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn, the motion was seconded, voted upon passed and adjournment occurred at 7:40 PM